

JEAN ELIOT'S CHRONICLES OF CAPITAL SOCIETY DOINGS

Conversation and the Winter's Social Plans

DEAR SUSAN—Since the official announcement that the President would go abroad for the opening of the peace conference at Versailles, there has been but one topic of conversation in Washington, and discussion has waxed fast and furious. Lawyers and politicians are concerned with the legal and political aspects of his leaving the country; statesmen are giving grave consideration to the effect which his presence will have on international relations, and the man in the street, who gets into deep water when it comes to the discussion of such matters, is peculiarly interested in the personnel of the delegation which the United States is sending to the conference and the make-up of the President's party.

As for the women, they are on tenter hooks to know who the feminine members of the President's party are to be. Mrs. Wilson is the President's constant companion. Since their marriage he has never left town without taking her with him, and it is inconceivable that he would start off on such a journey—such an historic pilgrimage—without her. Presumably, she will need a secretary, and the question of who is to have the coveted post is a matter for interesting, if fruitless, speculation. Miss Edith Benham, social secretary at the White House, seems to be the most obvious person, unless the First Lady should decide to take her sister, Miss Bertha Bolling, or Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, in this capacity.

Then, too, Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson is almost sure to go, functioning as the President's physician. So it seems quite within the bounds of possibility that Mrs. Grayson, who was Gertrude Gordon was a particular protegee of Mrs. Wilson—then Mrs. Norman Galt—and traveled all over Europe with her, may also be included in the Presidential party, which will probably leave Washington early in December, immediately after Congress reconvenes and settles itself down for its last session.

Mrs. Lansing Says She Will Accompany Husband.

There seems to be no question that the Secretary of State will be one of the commissioners of the United States to the conference; and Mrs. Lansing says very frankly that if her husband is sent abroad she will accompany him, as "she never goes anywhere without me, you know." It will be no new thing for Mrs. Lansing to be a sort of collateral member of an important diplomatic mission. Her father, Gen. John W. Foster, represented the United States at Paris during the settlement of the Behring sea controversy, participated, at the invitation of the Emperor of China, in the peace negotiations which ended the war between China and Japan, and took part in several other important international conferences. On several occasions Mrs. Lansing served as his secretary and Mrs. Lansing went along. She has, therefore, enjoyed some wonderfully interesting experiences, although none of these conferences could, of course, compare with the tremendous, history-making importance of this gathering at Versailles.

Since the President is to take his wife along and the Secretary of State will be accompanied by Mrs. Lansing, there seems little doubt that the other American delegates to the peace conference may be accompanied by some of the feminine members of their families. Miss Margaret Wilson is at present abroad, and may well join her father in Paris while the peace deliberations are on—what wouldn't you give to be there?—and another woman who will probably be happy chance, be on the ground is Mrs. George Barnett, wife of the major general commandant of the Marine Corps.

Mrs. Barnett called for France a



MME. LUCIEN GUINARD, Wife of a member of the French High Commission, and baby Mario Antoinette Guinard, who was born in Washington.

fortnight ago under rather harrowing circumstances. General Barnett was ill, very ill, in a hospital in Paris. Cables from him were irregular, slow in coming, and thoroughly unsatisfactory. She was in a state of great anxiety about him. Moreover, she was not in very good health herself, never having quite recovered her strength after the serious attack of appendicitis, which she had in the summer.

Have Hissaid Sent To Watch World Made Over.

All this was before the armistice was signed, and it wasn't easy for a woman to get permission to go abroad. However, Mrs. Barnett is a very persuasive person, and she finally convinced the powers that be that it was up to them to let her go over and look after the general. A few days after she had sailed the war came to an end, and she landed to find the general much better and peace negotiations under way. It is doubtful if General Barnett will have any official connection with the peace conference, although quite possible, of course; but I imagine that since they are already on the ground the Barnetts will stay in Paris, where they have a ringside seat from which to watch the making over of the world.

I heard a very brilliant man complain the other day that Americans seemed to be looking upon this peace conference as a junket, a sort of a glorified garden fete, instead of the most solemn undertaking the world has ever known. Perhaps there's some truth in that arrangement. I don't know; but those who are familiar with the procedure in such cases seem to think it rather doubtful if the peace conference will be a happy chance, be on the ground is Mrs. George Barnett, wife of the major general commandant of the Marine Corps.

Mrs. Barnett called for France a

of going over if opportunity offered, and I don't believe any mortal woman could. Moreover, I believe it would require superhuman restraint on the part of Mr. Wilson to stay peacefully at home when he might be on the spot helping to build up a new heaven and a new earth.

Like Roosevelt, Those Not For Him Are Against Him.

The President is rapidly getting into the class with Roosevelt, in that those who are not violently for him are now inclined to be violently against him. His admirers consider that all of his utterances are inspired, and his actions as well. Others—well, it is particularly for the benefit of the "others" that I want to pass along an amusing story which Robert T. Small told recently in his interesting column in a Philadelphia paper and credits to a Congressman from the Northwest, a member of the President's own party.

The story is told apropos of the political silence which envelops the White House and the fact that there has been absolutely no statement forthcoming since the recent elections. It deals with Olaf, a Swede, and his sweetheart, Helga. Olaf, who had been courted by the Swedish maid for many months, took her buggy riding one Sunday afternoon. For an hour or more they jogged along without a word being spoken on either side. At last the silence was broken, and Helga, who was sitting in the back seat, suddenly blurted the man.

"Yes, Olaf," came the prompt response.

Again the two rode along in silence and nearly another hour had elapsed when Helga took the conversational bit in her teeth and demanded, "Olaf, why don't you say something?"

Olaf meditated for a minute. "I think," he drawled, "I say too damn much already."

Did I say the President's journey

MME. GEORGE PETOLOS, Whose husband is also attached to the French High Commission. She makes her home at the Wyoming.

was the one topic of conversation? No, there's another, the sudden and rather violent resignation of the Secretary of the Treasury. Everybody has something to say about the reasons back of it, about the effect it will have on his political career, etc., and so on. And on one thing everybody is agreed, the general and genuine regret which will be caused by Mrs. McAdoo's departure. She is without doubt one of the best equipped and most successful young women in official life; and she has made a very warm place for herself among Washington people.

President's Trip Will Delay Social Program.

Plans for the winter's social program are evidently going to be late in developing. In the first place conditions are rather too unsettled for anyone to give much thought to the matter just now. Then, official society needs must wait for a statement from the White House, announcing the dates for whatever entertaining the President and Mrs. Wilson elect to do, before it can move out its plans for the season, and this will probably not be forthcoming until after the President's return from Europe.

Moreover, it is probable that other Cabinet officers, besides the Secretary of State, will be sent to Versailles as delegates to the peace conference. Their wives will doubtless go with them, and it is on the cards that nothing will be settled in the matter of Cabinet entertaining until after their return from overseas. Then they may decide whether the Cabinet dinners are to be resumed and the "Cabinet day" receptions on Wednesday afternoons which were such a picturesque feature of life in Washington before the war. At the moment, however, nine of the Cabinet members seem to have given the matter much thought.

Already there has been a considerable change in the outlook of the debutantes. Mothers who were planning to bring out their daughters with a proper regard for wartime simplicity are now mapping out more elaborate programs of entertaining; and several girls are to be presented who had expected to put off their coming out for another year or to give it up entirely.

Mrs. Charles S. Bromwell, for instance, will give a tea sometime in December to bring out her daughter, Mildred Bromwell, and one hears whispers of luncheons, dinners and small dances to be given later in the winter for this pretty and popular bud. Olive Graef, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Campbell Graef, will also have a formal coming out sometime later in the season, the date to be selected after the return of Mrs. Graef and her daughter from a visit to New York, which they have in prospect.

Miss Hill To Make Debut Soon.

Henrietta Hill, youngest of the three charming daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Hill, is to have her formal coming out this year, but the date will not be selected just yet. The little debutante is anxious to have her brother, Lieut. Francis Hill, with her on this momentous occasion, and is putting off her party in the hope that he may be back in Washington in a few weeks. Lieut. Henrietta Hill, who is now stationed at Los Angeles, is in the coast artillery corps, but he will be mustered out of the service as soon as he can be conveniently spared. Henrietta Hill's sisters, Christobel and Mary Hill, have both joined the ranks of the war workers, and have positions in the office of the alien property custodian.

Mr. and Mrs. James Marion Johnston will bring out their younger

daughter, Eleanor Johnston, but nothing definite has been yet arranged. In the first place their plans are a little bit more ambitious than they would have been had the war continued, and then the bride in the family has the right of way over the bud.

The marriage of Eleanor Johnston's elder sister, Sophy Johnston, and Capt. Randolph Mason, U. S. A., will take place on Tuesday, December 3, at noon, in St. John's Church, and afterward there will be a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, 1628 Twenty-first street. It will be rather a small wedding, and only relatives and a few very intimate friends are to be asked to the breakfast. Miss Johnston may have her younger sister as maid of honor, but there will be no other attendants, and even this much is uncertain.

Preparations for the wedding have been made somewhat hastily, as Camp Hancock, Ga., where Captain Mason is on duty, has been under quarantine, and the young people couldn't even set the date for the ceremony until this was lifted. Even now they haven't the remotest idea what they are going to do between the time they are married and the time Captain Mason is mustered out of the service, which will probably be before many months. After that they will make their home in Washington.

I don't know when I have heard so much genuinely pleasant comment as that called forth by the announcement of the engagement of Miss Johnston and Captain Mason. Everybody says nice things about him—he's a Washington man and a son of Mr. and Mrs. Pinckney Mason—and Sophy Johnston is one of the most popular girls in town. She is so genuine, so cultivated, so poised, so absolutely equal to any occasion.

MRS. ADRIAN S. FLEMING, Wife of Brigadier General Fleming, U. S. A., who is in Washington while her husband is on duty overseas.

at a fashionable finishing school, as most of her mates did. The next winter she came out and was one of the little group of girls, familiarly known as the "Big Six," who were the greatest belles of the gayest season in Washington. The other members of this little coterie were Margaret Draper, now Princess Margaret Boncompagni, of Rome; Alice Whiting, now Mrs. John Baldwin Cochran; Mrs. "Jimmie" Curtis, of Boston, formerly Laura Merriam; Eudora Cliver, now doing war work overseas, and Gladys Hinchley, who has a position in the State Department. Helen Taft was—and is—a particular chum of Miss Johnston. They were intimate friends at the time Miss Taft's father was in the White House, and have visited each other frequently since then.

Catherine Harlow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harlow, is not taking the social world and his wife into her confidence quite yet with regard to the details of her marriage to Lieutenant Commander Theodore Stark Wilkinson, 24, U. S. N., which will take place some time in December. She hasn't heard yet from some of the girls she has asked to be bridesmaids. Commander Wilkinson's list of ushers is not quite complete, and she prefers not to tell her plans until they are more definite.

However, she is to have a church wedding—St. John's Church—with a reception to follow at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harlow, and I understand, she expects to have either four or six bridesmaids, with ushers "to match." It is rather curious that Miss Harlow's wedding, and Miss Johnston's should come so close together, for the two girls are next door neighbors.

Many Weddings Booked This Winter.

The week just past had its quota of interesting weddings, notably the marriage of Harriet Peckham, daughter of Mrs. Henry Arnold Peckham, and Major Henry C. McLean, which took place on Wednesday, and the marriage of Maude Marie Stewart and Lieut. Jean J. Labat, of the French High Commission, solemnized yesterday.

The Peckham-McLean wedding followed hard upon the announcement of the engagement and so soon after Mrs. Peckham and her daughter

Fancies, Fads, And Foibles of Capital Society

Chance, the country home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William W. Stewart, at Forestville, Md., and was as pretty as possible. Probably Miss Stewart is marrying her stalwart young Frenchman just in time to return to France with him, for the members of the French High Commission are being rapidly recalled. Lieut. Henri Marquisan, who was with the aviation mission, has called taking with him his American bride formerly Frances Moore, and Claude Langlais has already arrived in Paris accompanied by pretty Mme. Langlais who was Amy Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Bennett.

M. and Mme. Langlais called with Andre Tardieu on the Lorraine and since they took their departure before the armistice was signed, were unable to make mention of their sailing or to bid their friends goodbye. They are staying with M. Langlais' parents, M. and Mme. Henri Langlais. When they went abroad their original plan was to remain but a few weeks but the signing of peace may put a different face on the matter.

General Claudon, chief of the French military mission, and the charming little daughter, who came over to make a brief visit with him, have gone home. Colonel and the Egoness Reille have given up the house they bought here and are back in France. Other charming Frenchmen are leaving from day to day and it will not be long, I understand, before the High Commission closes its doors and takes its departure en masse.

War Mission To Depart From Here.

Indeed, the evacuation of Washington is now well under way. Of course, it will be a long time before (Continued on Page Fifteen.)

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